

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for separating steam from a mixture of steam and fibers, comprising an elongated feeding compartment including a pair of short sides, and having an inlet arranged between the pair of short sides of the elongated feeding compartment, ~~and feeding means a conduit~~ for feeding a mixture of steam and fibers through said inlet, and a conveyor worm arranged axially in the feeding compartment for the feeding of fibers, said ~~feeding means conduit~~ comprising a ~~tubular~~ curved conduit section which is curved such that the mixture of steam and fibers during passage in the ~~tubular~~ curved conduit section is separated under the influence of centrifugal forces into a substantially relatively heavy steam-less fraction of fibers in a radially outer layer and into a substantially light ~~fibrefiber~~-free fraction of steam in a radially inner layer, the ~~tubular~~ curved conduit section is arranged in such a way that a heavy fraction of fibers is fed through the inlet peripherally into the elongated feeding compartment of the apparatus, where the separated fraction of fibers are conveyed further by means of the conveyor worm, while the separated light fraction of steam is fed through the inlet against the center of the elongated feeding compartment and removed through an outlet of the apparatus.

2. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~tubular~~ curved conduit section is adapted such that the difference in velocity, between the velocity of the fibers in the ~~feeding means conduit~~ in relation to the velocity of the conveyor worm arranged in the elongated feeding compartment, is minimized.

3. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an inwards radially extending wall section from an inner surface in the elongated feeding compartment, that

defines a rear chamber in the apparatus to which the radial outlet is connected, through which outlet the steam is removed.

4. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~feeding means~~ conduit has a substantially straight, linear elongated outer tubular portion, having an extension, which outer portion is positioned adjacent an opposite end compared to the end of the curved ~~tubular~~ conduit section that is connected to the inlet.

5. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said extension of the ~~feeding means~~ conduit forms an angle between 75-90° in relation to the longitudinal extension of the apparatus.

6. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inlet is arranged tangentially at the periphery of the apparatus.

7. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the cross-sectional area of the inlet and the ~~feeding means~~ conduit is quadratic or rectangular.

8-12 (canceled).

13. (withdrawn) A method for feeding a mixture of steam and fibers to an elongated feeding compartment having a pair of short sides for apparatus for separating steam from a mixture of steam and fibers, where the mixture of steam and fibers are fed by means of feeding means through an inlet arranged between the short sides of the elongated feeding compartment, and where the fibers are conveyed further by means of a conveyor worm arranged axially in the feeding compartment, the feeding means comprising a tubular section which is curved, whereby the mixture of steam and fibers during passage in the tubular section is brought to separate under the influence of centrifugal forces in a substantially relatively heavy steam-less fraction of fibers in a radially outer layer and in a substantially light fiber-free fraction of steam in a radially inner layer, the tubular section

is arranged in such a way that heavy fraction of fibers is fed through the inlet peripherally into the elongated feeding compartment of the apparatus, where the separated fraction of fibers are conveyed further by means of the conveyer worm, while the separated light fraction of steam is fed through the inlet against the center of the elongated feeding compartment and removed through an outlet of the apparatus.